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VOL. II NO. 250

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1947.

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COUNTER-OFFENSIVE BY RUSSIA ANNOYED Dutch Army Drives On Against Jogjakarta

Pert Note On Jap Peace Conference

London, July 23.

In its reply to the United States' invitation to attend preparatory Japanese peace treaty talks on August 10, the Soviet Union declared that it does not agree that the question of the calling of a Conference should be decided unilaterally by the United States Government without previous consultation with Russia, China and Great Britain, Moscow Radio reported tonight.

The reply added that Russia considers it essential that the question of calling a Conference to draft a Japanese peace treaty should be examined preliminarily by the Council of Foreign Ministers. In its reply, the Soviet Government said that the invitation was sent to M. Molotov, and simultaneously the United States Government began unilateral negotiations on this subject with representatives of the Far Eastern Commission.

"The United States Government thus started preparations for the Conference without consulting the Governments of the Soviet Union, China and Great Britain," it said. During the war the three Powers, Britain, Soviet Russia, and the United States, reached definite agreements on the peace settlement, Moscow Radio declared. "It suffices to refer to such documents as the Cairo Declaration, the decisions of the Yalta Conference and the Potsdam Declaration."

"CANNOT AGREE"

In addition, the United States, Great Britain, the U.S.S.R., and China decided in the December agreement of 1945 in Moscow that these four countries should take part in the Allied Council for Japan, and that the Far Eastern Commission in Washington would take its decisions with the concurrence of the representatives of the four powers, by which means a special interest in questions relating to postwar conditions in Japan were recognized.

"The Soviet Government cannot agree that the question of calling a Conference for the drafting of a peace treaty with Japan should be decided unilaterally by the United States Government, without previous consultation with the Governments of the Soviet Union, China, and Great Britain. All the more since the Council of Ministers, formed upon the initiative of the United States, was created precisely for preparatory work in connection with the drafting of the peace treaties."

"In accordance with these considerations the Government of the Soviet Union considers it essential that the question of calling a Conference for the drafting of a peace treaty with Japan be examined preliminarily by the Council of Foreign Ministers."—Reuter.

Batavia, July 23. The Republican Radio announced today that the Indonesian Army launched an offensive against the Dutch along the Sabit River, west of Batavia, and counterattacked on the north coast with such swiftness that the Dutch had been beaten back to the outskirts of Semarang. The broadcast said the offensive had driven the Dutch back to their first positions but did not pinpoint the action. The Republican Radio reported that 50 Dutch tanks were driving on Prapat, 15 miles west of Cheribon. A Dutch military spokesman denied that troops had been landed at Cheribon. He said a column was headed overland for Cheribon from Bandung. "We want the harbour nicely intact," he added.—United Press.

POLICE FIRE ON MOB

Riots In India

Calcutta, July 23.

The police opened fire three times to disperse unruly mobs at Kharagpur, big coal centre and railway junction near here, where military and railway auxiliary forces were called up to deal with a communal disturbance, it was reported today.

It was learned that the toll of the disturbances was six killed and 60 injured and admitted to hospital. The railway workshops were deserted because of panic among the workmen.

The District Magistrate, with a military force and armed police, has camped in the disturbed area.

TRAIN ATTACKED

Eight people were killed and 20 were injured in a stabbing outrage following the hold-up of a special train near Lahore today.

The train, carrying workers, was stopped by bandits and a rail length placed across the line.

Five Sikhs and three Hindus were killed by the attackers, who were reported to be Muslims.

The engine driver cleared the line and drove the train to the nearest station, where troops and police cordoned off the neighbouring villages to carry out extensive searches.

Two incidents of bomb-throwing and three cases of arson were reported from different sectors of Lahore last night. There were no casualties or damage.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Municipal Government

FIRST note of doubt raised by Sir Mark Young's statesman-like memorandum for the establishment of a Municipal Council is the degree of self-government promised by the scheme. Many will feel disappointed. In its immediate substance the Municipal Council is to be little more than an enlarged edition of the existing UDC, fulfilling the same functions, plus administration of the Fire Brigade, parks, gardens and recreations, the licensing and control of places of amusement, and the licensing of vehicles. It is manifest that Whitehall intends Hongkong to proceed slowly and carefully along the road to self-government. This is a commendable policy, but it is only necessary to consider the plan provided for the eventual supervision by the Municipal Council of Education, Social Welfare, Town Planning, Public Works, Public Utilities and so on. There are plenty of reasons for supporting this conservative policy. The public is about to assume civic responsibilities, experience of which has previously been enjoyed by only a handful of residents. A futuristic period in both necessary and de-

sirable. Moreover, as we have already noted, the enfranchised have the task of finding the necessary number of Councillors who possess not only the statutory qualifications but also the other essential qualities upon which successful local administration depends. Thirty will be needed, and for many of them it will be their first experience of such responsible administrative duties. They too, will need guidance, and to overburden them with too many functions and too much power is more likely to lead to a breakdown of the Municipal Government machinery before it has a chance to get properly offed and in good working condition. Furthermore, the inclination to feel disgruntled over the limited operations of the proposed Municipal Council is tempered by the knowledge that parallel with the setting up of this body is the elimination of the Official Majority on the Legislative Council and its substitution by an Unofficial majority. There are a dozen other searching considerations associated with the proposed Municipal Council scheme, and they will call for comment in due course. At this moment it is only necessary to compliment Sir Mark Young and his advisers on the manner they have fulfilled a complicated and onerous task.

TANKS IN ACTION

Batavia, July 23. Two Dutch army drives on Jogjakarta, isolated hill capital of the Indonesian Republic, were reported today, as the Dutch claimed big successes in the three days since their "police action" against the Republic was launched.

A Republican source said that a Dutch force, including about 100 tanks and armoured cars, was pushed back from Salatiga, strategic town about 40 miles south of the Dutch-held port of Semarang. While their radio reported that Salatiga had become "a battleground," the Republicans said that they believed this Dutch push was aimed at Jogjakarta.

At the same time the Republican communiqué spoke of a new Dutch drive southeast of the mid-land railway town of Bandung, along the road and railway towards Jogjakarta.

In this area, the communiqué said, Dutch "planes bombed Gardet, a small town on a railway branch-line in the mountains 20 miles southeast of Bandung, and machine-gunned a hospital."

The rich rice lands in the eastern part of the island were, meanwhile, reported in the Dutch communiqué to have been the scene of considerable Dutch gains. Eight towns had been captured, it was claimed.

TROOPS FAN OUT

From their landing places at Banjawan, railroad coast town on the extreme eastern tip of the island, Dutch troops, the communiqué said, had fanned out to occupy all the chief towns east of a line from Probolinggo, main Indonesian port on the north coast.

In central Java, the transport town of Bangli, 25 miles inland—through which goes all rail and road traffic to the eastern peninsula—was mentioned in Indonesian reports as the probable objective of two Dutch thrusts from the north coast.

The Dutch communiqué said that Netherlands troops, driving southwards from Java's largest port, Sourabaya, had reached Bangli. Places occupied in western Java, according to the Dutch communiqué, included Salatiga (where the Republicans claimed to have pushed back the Dutch force).

The position there as described by Antara, Indonesian news agency, tonight was that the battle was still raging around the town. The Republicans were stated to have repulsed the first attacks yesterday when the town was assaulted from all sides and they then arrested "fifth columnists." Eleven Dutch armoured cars were reported to have penetrated the town during the night, but Antara reported today that they had, since been driven out.

The Antara report also said that Dutch troops in the east had penetrated within artillery range of Bondowoso, 45 miles to the north-west of Bandung.

POWER STATION TAKEN

The Dutch were now concentrating in the area of Teontang, 20 miles south of Semarang, and had occupied the power station of this central Java town.

In western Java, Antara said that Krawang, Java's most important rice store, 35 miles east of Batavia, was among several towns and airfields on which air raids were made.

In Sumatra, where the Dutch communiqué reported that many places had been captured, the Indonesian Republican radio said that the Dutch were using Japanese troops and that two of them were captured.

The Jogjakarta radio tonight appealed to the youths and students movements of India for assistance to prevent further fighting in Indonesia. While fighting continued in the Indies, a packed house in the Dutch States-General second chamber—at the Hague listened in grim silence to a 20-minute statement on the

situation by the Dutch Prime Minister, Dr. Louis Beel. Dr. Beel, speaking of the Linggadjati agreement of last March, providing for the establishment of a United States of Indonesia by January 1, 1949, declared that although Article 17 of the agreement did provide for arbitration, in this case arbitration must be ruled out. The prospect of early outside mediation in the Netherlands-Indonesian dispute receded tonight after speeches by the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, in the House of Commons, and Dr. Beel, Netherlands Premier, in the Dutch Parliament, diplomatic observers in London believed.

From Washington, it was reported that after British and United States officials had conferred on the Indonesian situation today, it was learned that they saw little hope of their governments having an opportunity of active mediation in the dispute in the near future.

Autonomous Washington sources predicted that the fighting in Indonesia would probably continue for the next few weeks, with the Dutch seizing the main towns and the Republicans taking to the country, before efforts at mediation could be assumed.

The key note of Mr. Bevin's forecasts of future British efforts for a peaceful solution. He refrained from any reference to the Indian communication received in London today, appealing for British action.

HOPEFUL FACTOR

The strong Indian interest in the checking of disturbed conditions in southeast Asia, has been considered in London as a hopeful factor in the situation. But it is understood that the communication will be closely studied by the British Government before any reply is made.

The Dutch Premier's statement that the provisions for mediation between the Netherlands and the Indonesian Republic did not apply to the present situation, has been interpreted in London as an indication that the Dutch Government is waiting for the development of a new situation before seeking a solution.

There is obviously no intention on the Netherlands side of resuming negotiations with the present Indonesian Government on anything resembling the old basis.

In his account of British efforts to avert a breakdown between the House of Commons that ever since December, 1945, when the political adviser to the Supreme Allied Commander-in-Chief, Southeast Asia, was authorised to make the first attempt to exercise his good offices to bring the two parties to a compromise, Mr. Bevin had continued his efforts to that end.

It will be recalled, he said, that in 1946 Lord Inverchapel was sent to Batavia by the British Government and succeeded in securing a wide measure of agreement between the Netherlands authorities and the Indonesians on certain proposals, providing for Indonesian autonomy within the framework of the Netherlands Kingdom.

Unfortunately, these proposals were found to be unacceptable by the Netherlands Government at the Hague and in August, 1946, Lord Killearn was invited by both parties to use his good offices.

(Continued on Page 4)

Terrorists Call Off Truce

Jerusalem, July 23.

The Irgun Zvai Leumi tonight declared its truce was "officially at an end" and attacked Haganah's "inconsistency" and also gave notice of their intention to approach an unidentified nation to raise the Palestine issue with the Security Council.

Speaking tersely, the broadcaster said, "Until a United Nations decision is taken, the fight will go on. Nay, the fight will become crueler... we do not see the difference in deportation to Cyprus and deportation to France. They are both deportations... the Haganah does not know its own mind. Is it or is it not at war with the British? They are fighting them today but not to-morrow."

"The Haganah youth is clamouring for consistency... we need a direct approach to the Security Council, but what country would do it for us? There is one that will."—United Press.

Atomic Plants Working At Full Blast

Washington, July 23.

The Atomic Energy Commission reported to the Congress tonight that the nation's atomic plants are working at full blast but more help from private enterprise is needed to maintain and increase the present United States lead in the nuclear field.

The five-man civilian Commission headed by David E. Lilienthal made these points:

1. The Commission has given principal attention to the production of atomic weapons. We mean to maintain and increase the present pre-eminence of the United States in atomic weapons until such time as the Congress affirms that acceptable international agreements have been reached and an appropriate machinery is established to insure that this activity can be relaxed without endangering the national security."

2. Tomorrow's military industrial applications of atomic energy depend on today's research. Many talented people, many well-managed institutions and private undertakings now otherwise engaged must actively participate in the atomic energy programme. Great effort is necessary if this country is to hold and extend its present leadership.

PEACETIME USES

3. The security regulations in force when the civilian Commission assumed responsibility on January 1 have been maintained and a survey of effectiveness is being made.

4. An important beginning has been made at exploiting peacetime uses of atomic energy. Radio isotopes, most promising tool in chemistry, biology and medicine, are being produced and distributed in ever increasing quantity. Research is being carried forward in health and physics.

5. Large-scale production of atomic power for industrial and community use continues to be a major, if long-term, goal. But a number of basic advances in physics will be required before power can be produced at satisfactory efficiency and cost. It is speculative to estimate how long it will be.

The Commission gave special emphasis to the need for continuing atomic research on a vast scale.

The Commission said, "A continuation or even an improvement of the present process is not enough. To rely on existing knowledge alone would be disastrous. New efforts in fundamental research must be made comparable in intensity and breadth of imagination to the wartime effort which produced the first atomic bomb. More effective production methods must be developed, so that insurmountable technological difficulties might be overcome."

The Commission called for help from scientists of privately-owned laboratories and industry—even if this requires that for the time they sit aside what they are now doing. Although our long-range pre-eminence in the field of atomic energy requires major scientific and technical advance, our immediate national security demands that present operations continue without interruption.—United Press.

PACIFIC EXPERIMENTS

Washington, July 23. The Atomic Energy Commission revealed tonight that it was establishing proving grounds in the Pacific for experiments and tests in atomic weapons.

The report said merely that "the atomic experiments would be 'rough' in nature. No indication was given as to what part of the Pacific would be the site. In the past, atomic tests have been conducted at Bikini lagoon and at Los Alamos, New Mexico.

The Commission did not disclose any hint of possible new atomic weapons in its report. It emphasised that there was a number of important phases of the atomic energy programme which could not be presented in a public report. It said secret phases of the programme had been reported at closed sessions of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy.—United Press.

Students Languish In Prison

Sequel To Shanghai Demonstrations

Shanghai, July 24.

Refusing to sign acknowledgments of their guilt, 38 university students and four reporters, arrested last month by the military authorities as "agitators" are cooling their heels in Shanghai jails, with no trials in prospect.

Twelve more students were released at the beginning of this month, after their parents had signed statements admitting their guilt and guaranteeing their future good behaviour.

Parents of those detained refused to divulge details of the "confessions" required by the Shanghai Woosung Garrison Headquarters, but it was reliably learned that one stipulation required the prisoners to leave Shanghai immediately upon release.

UPRISING THREAT

The situation arose as a result of the nationwide student demonstrations late in May, culminating in a threatened "uprising" on June 2. In the early hours of June 1, however, gendarmes took in 50 students and four newspaper reporters—two of them girls—whom they accused of disturbing public peace and threatening security by their actions and articles.

The uprising did not come off, but these students and reporters were not released, and it was announced they would be deported forthwith to Communist-held areas. Appeals to Princeton-educated Mayor K. C. Wu failed to free them, but the deportation plans were dropped.

HABEAS CORPUS DENIED

Despite various public petitions and newspaper editorials, no trial has been scheduled, and the authorities demand written statements acknowledging the students' guilt before agreeing to release them. This, relatives of the students claim, is a move to absolve the military from blame for making hasty arrests without warrants. Habeas Corpus writs have been requested but not granted.

Some parents of arrested students indicated they would carry the case to the government. They have not been permitted to see the prisoners.—United Press.

ASSASSINATORS ARRESTED

London, July 23.

Radio New Delhi broadcast a report from Rangoon tonight that the police had arrested the men who assassinated the Burmese government leaders last Saturday.

The broadcast, monitored by the Exchange Telegraph, said one of the men was shot and killed while he attempted to escape from the police.—United Press.

The Fabulous Edrich Scores 267 Not Out

London, July 23.

A good omen for England in the fourth Test match against South Africa opening at Leeds on Saturday was today's performance of the Middlesex "Twins," Bill Edrich and Denis Compton, who figured in a brilliant third wicket stand of 211 runs against Northamptonshire. Edrich batted on after losing Compton and made 267 not out to record the highest individual post-war score in England. Compton completed his 2,000 runs for the season as a figure Edrich passed a few days ago.

The close of play scores were: At Kennington Oval: Surrey 398 (Parker 200 not out). Derbyshire 43 for no wickets. At Bourne: Hampshire 223 (McCorker 65, Harris 54). Essex 151 for two (Dodd 62).

At Maidstone: Somerset 113 (Harding four for 49, Mallett four for 45). Kent 195 for four (Todd 93 not out). At Northampton: Middlesex 407 for five declared (Edrich 267 not out, Compton 110, Mann 54). Northants 39 for three.

At Worcester: Sussex 360 (James Langridge 83, Bartlett 60, Carey 90. Herefordshire 117). At Worcester: Gloucestershire 193 (Dyson 57, Pollard four for 53). Herefordshire 49 for two (Lancashire 85 for three).—Reuter.

CENTURY AGAINST S.A.

Paisley, Scotland, July 23. James Aitchison, 27-year-old leading Scottish batsman, carried his

bat through Scotland's 250 minutes first innings for an unblemished century when a two-day match between Scotland and the South Africans opened here today.

Scotland made 107 and the tourists had scored 13 for the loss of one wicket when rain stopped play for the day.

Aitchison's century was the first to be made for a Scottish side against a South African touring side. Making his strokes with the polish of a high class batsman, he scored all round the wicket and was never in difficulties. His innings of 100 included one five and 13 fours.

On a very plumb wicket, it took the South African bowlers a long time to subdue the Scottish batsmen. Smith was the hardest working bowler and he finished with three wickets for 72. Paynter also claimed three wickets at a cost of 44 runs.—Reuter.

RETAINS TITLE

Los Angeles, July 23. Carlos Chavez (120 lbs.) of Los Angeles, defending his California featherweight title, took a split decision from Harold Dado (132 lbs.) also of Los Angeles and former world bantamweight champion. Chavez, a 10-1 favourite, piled up an early lead in a 12-round bout in the Olympic Auditorium and wrestled Dado to the canvas in the second round after buckling his knees with third left and right to the chin. He hurt Dado again with head blows in the fourth.

Dado won every round after the sixth, except the 10th, which was

called even, and the 11th. His best round was the last when he closed Chavez right eye. The referee voted for Dado by four points but the judges and the crowd of 9,000 sided with Chavez.—United Press.

BETZ BEATEN

London, July 23.

Mrs Sarah Palfrey Cooke, former American doubles champion, beat Miss Pauline Betz, last year's Wimbledon singles champion, in their second match in the indoor professional lawn tennis tournament at Wembley tonight by 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Mrs Cooke thus avenged the defeat suffered in the first match last Monday when Miss Betz ran out winner by 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The final meeting between the two Americans takes place on Friday.

Displaying fine control and volleying dexterously, Mrs Cooke concentrated her attack on Miss Betz's backhand to good purpose.—Reuter.

GOLF TOURNEY

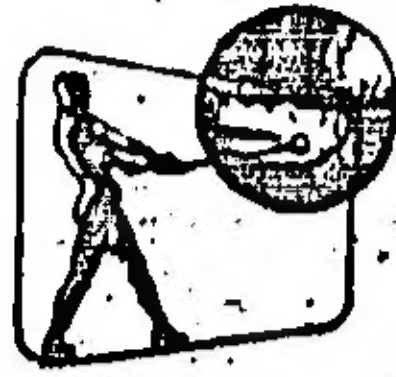
Harrogate, July 23.

Two Scottish international golfers, Johnny Fallon and G. McIntosh, equalled the course record of 67 to win the final of the North British Two Thousand Guineas professional golf tournament, which was played here today. Scoring, generally, was low, seven players breaking 70. The Australian Norman Von Nida, one stroke behind the leaders while the Belgian champion, Florij Van Donck, returned 72.—Reuter.

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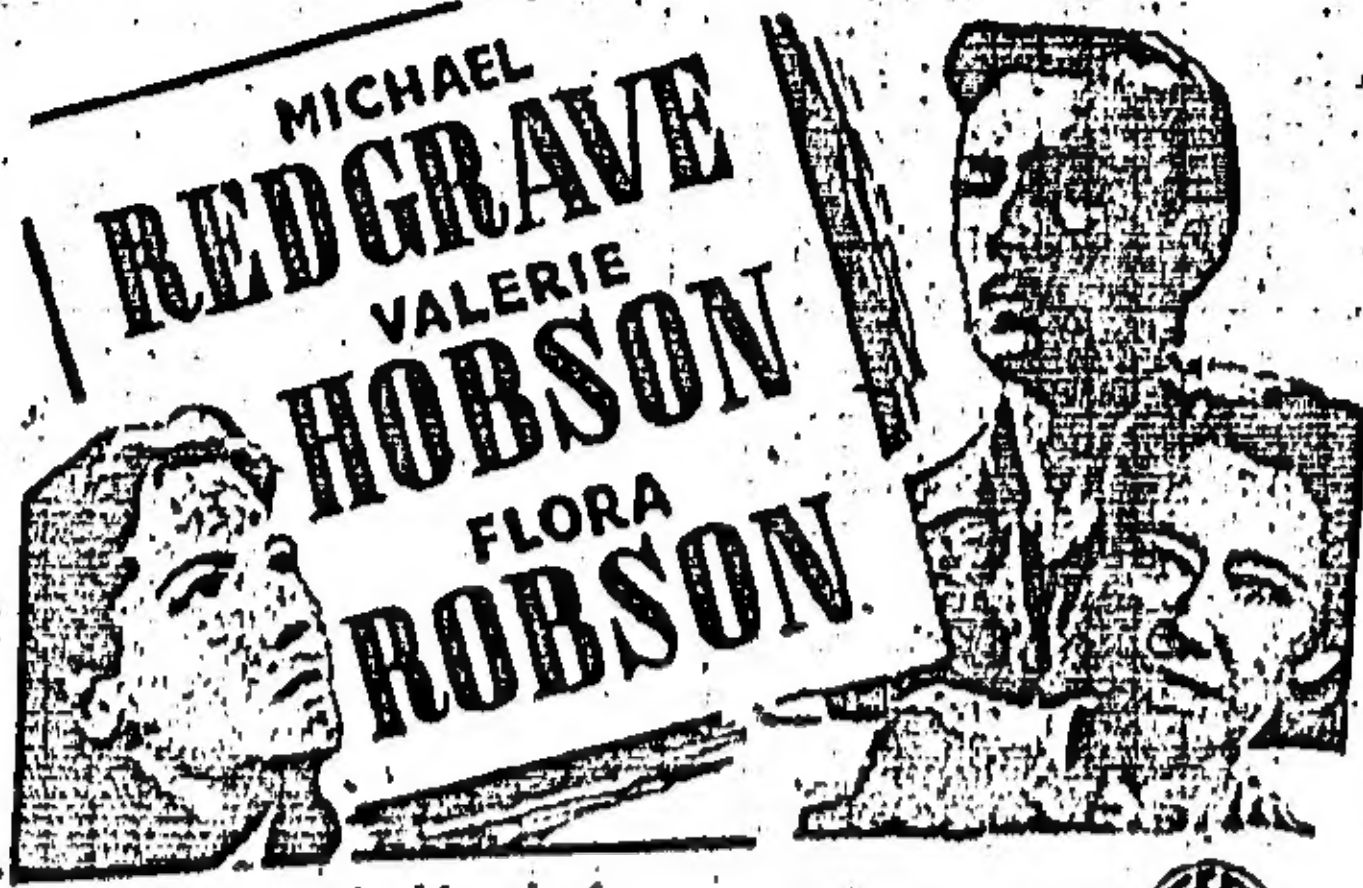


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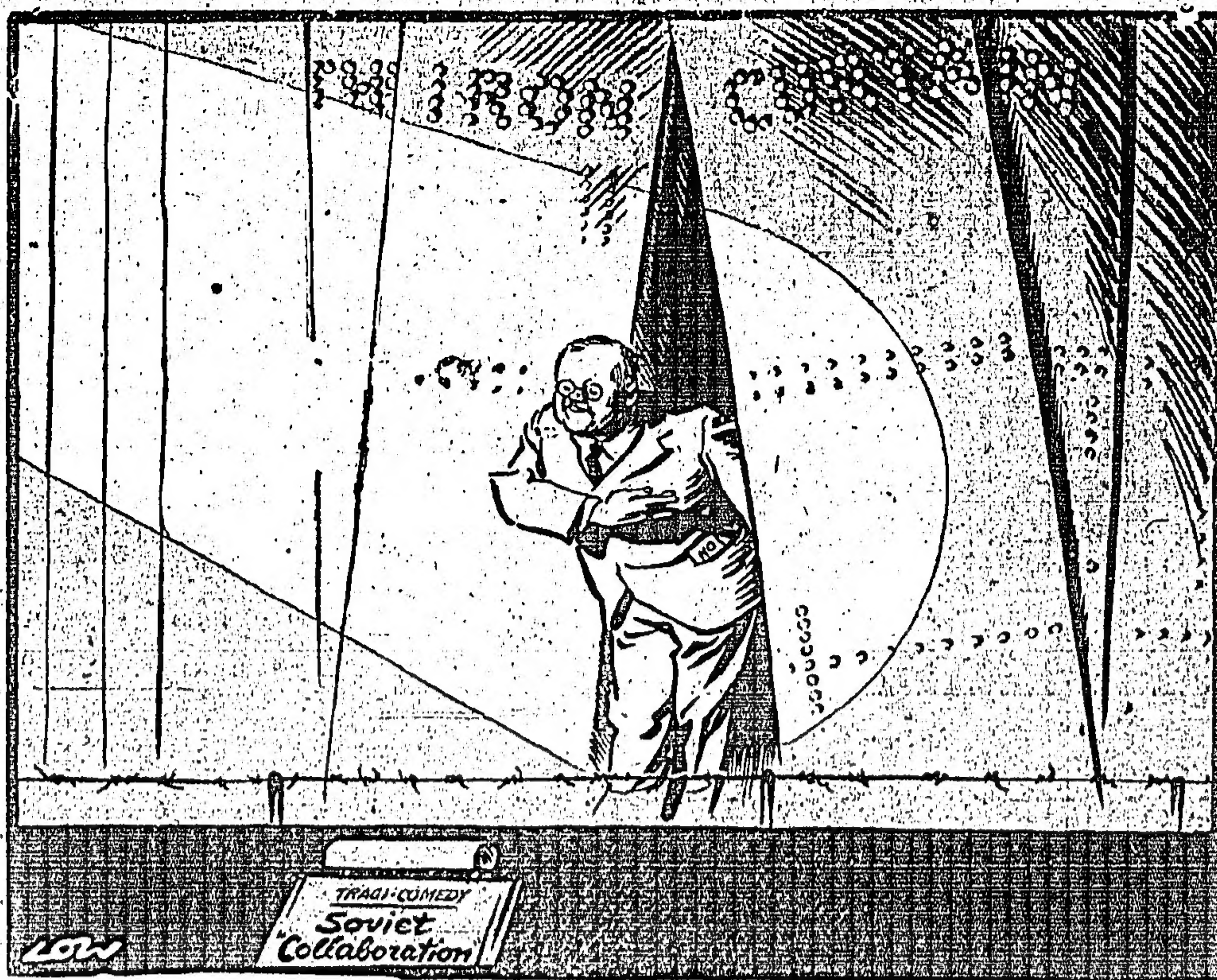
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FINAL PERFORMANCE

WILLIAM HICKEY Edgar Wallace Country

FROM his West India Dock headquarters, deep in the heart of the Edgar Wallace country, Chief Police Officer W. H. SIMMONS directs the detection of crime on London's 11 docks.

Patrolling a wharfedock beat 165 miles in length, his 500 Port of London Authority policemen guard 4,000 acres of land and water, ships and sheds, crews and cargoes. It may (or may not) comfort smokers to learn that £198,000,000 worth of tobacco alone is in his care.

While I drove round this rich territory with Mr Simmons, he explained that, although they are clamping down on the bad boys with mounting success, pilferage provides his big headache.

To sneak stolen property through any dock gates is about as easy as smuggling a double-decker bus into Westminster Abbey. Consequently, most offenders are seamen who broach cargoes, stowing away what they steal and selling the stuff at overseas ports.

Last quarter the P. L. A. investigated 263 cases. Their hands fell arrestingly on 226 shoulders, recovering nearly 70 per cent. of the loot.

As I left the docks and walked through Pennyfields, the chopsway belt looked dreary and unromantic. Down Mandarin-street not a mandarin stirred.

Trust the people

AT the "Trust the People" exhibition Mr GODFREY NICHOLSON, Tory M.P. for Farnham, addressed a lunching audience of 23 which within ten minutes swelled to 31, including one girl announcer, one commissioner, one duty nurse in case of accidents, and myself.

Among other things, Mr Nicholson told us that (1) under Socialism we were suffering from managerial tyranny; (2) in the 19th century world peace was kept by the British Navy; (3) we were loved by all the peoples we ruled throughout the world.

This last statement was promptly challenged by 18-year-old ANTHONY BARCLAY, a Hertfordshire landworker of superior education who had hitch-hiked to London. Asked Barclay: "What about the Indians?"

Another enemy sniper, present was youthful RUTH EADE, of St. Hugh's College, Oxford, who commented tartly that the speaker had hardly given a satisfactory exposition of Tory policy, had he?

Looking rather pained, poor Mr Nicholson explained that all he had been trying to do was say a few polite words to boost the exhibition along.

Over-Reach

IN a current poster-design competition for young art-school students and fostered by the Travel Association, one 2nd prize winner, ROBERT HARDING, illustrates an attractive view of Swanage, with the message below: "Visit Britain's countryside by Green Line." As young Robert proposes having a month's holiday in France with his £25 prize it seems a pity to spoil it by pointing out that Swanage is 130 miles away from London, and quite inaccessible by Green Line coach.

—And he never talks

DECLARED Mr CHICO MARX at a public luncheon: "Give me a piano, a wig and keys—I'll entertain you. But a speech? In our family only Harpo makes the speeches."

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

THE man who asked permission to erect a henhouse on his own land, and was told to eat dried egg-dust instead, had obviously not made use of the Suet multiple registration scheme.

Under this he would have applied in duplicate (back and forth) for a permit. On receiving the application back, he would have sent in two more (up and down). Then each would have been sent to and go singly, until three were with him and one with the Department. The duplicates would then have been demanded, and when sent, filed for reference, while the other two came back from the other people to be returned on receipt of the original two, pending decision. The case would then have come before the regional registration board, for reference to the interim authority's inspection officers, after consultation with the central panel of experts. And so on.

It gives me great pleasure to be at last able to give a concrete instance of how the scheme works in practice.

Twitter-twitter
DEAR Sir,
The recent inclement weather made many birds more friendly

than they usually are. Looking out of my window, the tits sipping at my milk-bottle, I saw, to my surprise, an outsize pecking at the card-board cap.

Yrs. faithfully,
Countryman.

Games for long nights

What is it that has 246 wheels and won't fit into a cable-station waiting-room?

84 tricycles.

Prednisone: 82, surely.

Myself: Yes. The inaccuracy makes the game more entrancing.

The wrong dynasty

Suspected of being a receiver of stolen goods... (Morning paper)

"I will have that Chinese idol in the corner," said the short-sighted woman in the antique shop.

"That, madam, is the proprietor," vouchsafed the assistant.

(Tomorrow: How to Build Mass-Spectrophotographs, Five-Hundred-Kilowatt Plutonium Piles, Cyclotrons, Flow-Pipes, Ironization Dumps, Neutron Tanks and Portable Honnet Plungers for an Atomic Research Experimental Station, in six lessons.)

All of a sudden people have stopped SPENDING

by BERNARD HARRIS

THE postwar spending boom in which hundreds of millions of pounds have been poured out on entertainment, holidays and non-essentials is beginning to collapse.

People who were flush with money a year ago are confessing now that they "cannot afford present prices."

Housewives are finding that their weekly allowance leaves little or nothing over for spending on luxuries.

First evidence of this re-emergence of what the economists call "consumer resistance" has come in a sharp drop in cinema box-office receipts.

The average drop over the country is reckoned at 15 per cent. and looks like becoming even more pronounced.

Theatres are in no better shape, and the fashionable night clubs report deserted dance floors for the first time since the blitz.

Hotel shock

BUT the most convincing signs of a growing "hard-ness" come from the seaside resorts, where the contraction in spending has shocked hotel owners and caterers, who were looking for a repetition of last year's lavish outpouring of cash.

For the first time in years some of the gilt is being knocked off Blackpool's "golden mile."

This Whitsun there were no queues for strawberry ice at 2s. 6d. each or half a pound of cherries at 1s. 6d.

Spending by holidaymakers is estimated to have dropped by 30 per cent. The hotels, packed out last year, were little more than half full.

Scarborough reports a strong objection by visitors when they learned that £2 a day was being asked for quite ordinary hotel accommodation.

From Bridlington come reports of visitors protesting at being charged 2s. 6d.—sometimes even more—for a fish and a chip tea that cost 1s. 6d. during the winter.

One of the main reasons for this change is that a year ago the Government had opened 3,400,000 savings bank accounts for demobbed men and women. About £200,000,000 was deposited in them.

Much of that money has been spent, some of it in setting up homes, some of it simply in "having a good time."

So now spending on entertainment and non-essentials has to be met by many instances from current earnings.

And though wage rates are still tending upwards, the cost of essentials is rising even faster and leaving a smaller surplus each week. This, of course, is not borne out by the official cost of living index. That index has apparently become incapable of movement, and no one pays any attention to it any more.

But there is no doubt about the rise in the real cost of living.

More than 80 items of food have gone up in price this year, compared with barely half a dozen that have fallen.

Here are a few that are making bigger inroads into the housewife's purse: Coffee, tea, cocoa, jam, tinned condensed milk, oatmeal, dried fruit, dried-egg, canned meat, biscuits.

Utility sheets and towels and household textiles are costing 20 to 30 per cent more. Linoleum and carpet prices have been raised.

The children want more pocket money because their chocolate and belted sweets are costing more.

Motorists will soon pay 20 per cent. more for car insurance, and are already paying more for petrol, more for repairs.

Rents jumping

RENTS of many houses and flats are jumping because of stiff increases in rates. Uncontrolled flat and house prices are soaring.

And, despite strenuous efforts at economy, Chancellor Dalton's heavy increase in tobacco and cigarette prices is seriously curtailing luxury spending in other directions.

Another influence affecting a wide section of the population is that the days of "easy money" on the Stock Exchange are almost gone.

Since the crack in the markets last autumn the average speculator has no longer been able to count on making an almost automatic capital profit.

Some of them, indeed, are now knowing what it is to make a loss, and that salutary experience is responsible for a considerable but-fading-up of pockets.

Hardest hit by the drying-up of surplus spending money are the families with young children.

At Torquay this Whitsun 80 per cent. of the visitors were middle-aged or elderly. The town's organisers asked, "Where are the youngsters?"

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Trade Talks Obstacle

London, July 23. Board of Trade sources said tonight that on Cabinet instructions the British trade delegation was holding final last-minute discussions with the Soviet Government representatives in Moscow tonight.

These sources said if this meeting failed to overcome the obstacles in negotiations, Harold Wilson, Secretary for Overseas Trade, would fly back to Britain tomorrow.

The price the Soviet is asking for wheat is generally believed to be the stumbling block.—United Press.

Intercepted Jews May Land In France

Paris, July 23. The French Government has decided to allow refugees from the President Garfield to land in France and give them immediate aid.

The decision was announced by the Minister of Veterans, Francois Mitterand, acting as Government spokesman, following a Cabinet meeting at President Auriol's country house at Rambouillet.

M. Mitterand said the Jews would not be forced to land, but those who would do so would be helped. This reverses the previous French refusal to let them land.

The British Ambassador, Mr. Alfred Duff-Cooper, visited Rambouillet during the meeting, but M. Mitterand said this was not connected with the refugees' case.

Disclaims Responsibility

"France intends to observe an attitude of humanity," M. Mitterand said. He said France had agreed not to pass on any more illegal immigrants to Palestine but disclaimed French responsibility in this case, asserting that most came from Germany with their passports in order and with apparently valid Colombian visas.

The Colombian Ambassador, Fernando Londoño y Londoño, told a press conference the Garfield refugees would not be allowed to go to Colombia.

Senator Londoño said the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs had not consulted Colombia on the question, and he denied that the refugees were carrying valid Colombian visas. He said if they had such they were false and he would prefer charges against those responsible for the forgeries. He added that the Garfield did not carry papers valid to land in Colombia.—United Press.

THE DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that the fifty-ninth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Company will be held at the Registered Offices of the Company, 5th, Floor P. & O. Building, Hongkong, on Saturday, the Second of August, 1947 at 11 a.m. for the purpose of confirming the appointment of members of the Consulting Committee, to receive the Report of the General Managers, together with the Statements of Accounts for the periods 1st January to 31st December 1941 and from 1st January 1942 to 31st December 1946, to re-elect members of the Consulting Committee and to re-appoint Auditors.

The Share Register and Transfer Books will be closed from the 28th July to 2nd August both days inclusive.

DOUGLAS LARRAIK & CO., General Managers.

Hongkong 22nd, July, 1947.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Ho Hong China Ltd. on behalf of their British Shareholders, wish to thank the officers and all ranks of the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Medical Department, Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, and all their friends in the Shipping fraternity for their kind assistance given in connection with the S.S. Hong Kong and for the good work which resulted in the rescue of all the souls on board and for the good work connected with the disembarkation of passengers on arrival.

NOTICE

Advertisers are requested to note that no advertisements (with the exception of urgent notices) will be accepted between the hours of 12.30 noon Saturdays, and 9 a.m. on Mondays.

From and including Mondays to Fridays, copy for the following days must be submitted not later than 4 p.m.

S. C. M. POST, H.K. TELEGRAPH.

Truman Non-Partisan Committee Meets To Examine Foreign Aid

Washington, July 23.

An important step in the evolution of the Marshall Plan was taken today with the first meeting of President Truman's nine-man "non-partisan" committee, which will be responsible for estimating the extent of the United States' contribution to an overall reconstruction programme.

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Averell Harriman, the Committee, representing both the major political parties as well as industry, labour and allied fields, began work under the terms of reference from President Truman that they "determine the facts with respect to the character and quantities of United States reserves available for economic assistance to foreign countries, and advise, in the light of these facts, on the limits within which the United States may safely and wisely plan to extend such assistance."

U.S. TARIFF DISCUSSIONS AT GENEVA

Geneva, July 23.

Informed quarters at the Trade and Employment Conference said the United States tariff team was making considerable progress towards its goal of completing tariff agreements with 15 countries represented by the conference.

The sources summed up the situation:

A United States-Norway agreement is expected within a few days. Satisfactory progress in the Benelux Customs of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. Negotiations with France practically deadlocked. Czechoslovakia progressing slowly. Negotiations with the British Commonwealth group held up through deadlock with Australia over the wool issue.

Meanwhile, the United States has completed preparatory work with Canada and the United Kingdom, enabling speedy progress once the Australian deadlock has been resolved. Good progress with India.

A substantial measure of difficulty with the Latin-American countries was reported but the outlook is not hopeless. Negotiations with Brazil are still being held. The Brazilian tariff increases averaging 40 per cent above 1938. Cuba shows considerable progress, but Cuba is proposing a raise in certain tariffs. Negotiations with Chile have slowed up while the Chileans await instructions from Santiago.—United Press.

FIRE FOLLOWS EXPLOSIONS IN LIVERPOOL

Liverpool, July 23.

Nine miles of Liverpool's vital docks, tram cars and electric trains went dead today when explosions followed by fire gutted the high tension switch room at the Clarence Dock power station.

The only casualty was a cleaner, who was killed instantly by a 30,000-volt jolt from a live wire. All fire equipment in the vicinity was rushed to the station to fight the fire, which was confined to a single room.

The cause of the explosions still has not been determined. Scores of small villages led by the big plant which is the key unit of the national grid system, were also blacked out.

Technicians restored partial service about an hour later by cutting out the damaged circuit.—United Press.

PROMISE OF GOOD HARVESTS

Berlin, July 23.

Four-power food and agriculture survey teams touring the occupation zones of Germany reported today that "promising harvests" were expected this autumn from British Zone farms.

The report said that the agricultural output would be still well below pre-war levels because of acute shortages of fertilizer and skilled farm labour.

"This year's harvest in the British Zone, particularly rye, barley, oats, wheat, mixed grain, potatoes and root crops, is expected to exceed the estimate made after the hard winter," the report said.

The quadripartite delegation has visited the British area. Tomorrow they begin their tour of the French Zone, after which the American and Russian Zones will be visited.—United Press.

BUYING US OUT

New Delhi, July 23.

Indian interests have purchased from British owners, business undertakings involving about £20,000,000, during the past 12 months, the Statesman reports.—Associated Press.



"Look what Albert's found, dear"

Singapore Press Protest Against Chinese Order

Singapore, July 24.

Singapore's Chinese editors have risen in indignation after reports from Nanking that the Commission for Overseas Affairs will attempt to control Chinese newspapers in Malaya and Southeast Asia in general.

Indonesians' Counter Offensive

(Continued from Page 1)

"In the hope of promoting an agreement, the British Government suggested to the Netherlands Government the possible appointment of a neutral police commissioner, but this idea did not prove acceptable."

Meanwhile, the British Consul-General in Batavia, Mr. Mitchell, had done a lot of valuable work to try to bridge the differences between the two parties, which was very greatly appreciated by both.

At all times, the British Government had made it plain that they were ready to place their good offices at the disposal of both parties and in the British official statement of July 21, this offer of good offices was renewed.

AUSTRALIAN REACTION

The Australian Council of Trade Unions will ask the Australian Government to urge immediate negotiations to settle the conflict in the Netherlands East Indies, it was learned in Melbourne today.

The Council is also to urge the Government "to use its influence with the Indonesian Republic Government, the Dutch authorities in Java and the British Government to urge that negotiations be reopened immediately for an early settlement of the conflict."

The Council is also to urge representation for settlement to the United Nations and to the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Mr. E. J. Harrison, deputy opposition leader (United Australia Party) said today that Mr. Joseph Chifley, Australian Prime Minister, must say whether Australia proposed to apply sanctions against the Dutch or Indonesians, or both, or neither, because the Australian waterside workers were already applying sanctions against the Dutch by refusing to load their ships.

Dr. Sutan Sjahrir, former Republican Prime Minister in Indonesia, who is on a mission to seek world support for the Republican cause, said when he arrived in Rangoon today on his way to New Delhi, "We shall fight to the last man—either we win or we perish."

Mr. George Marshall, Secretary of State, disclosed in Washington today that the Dutch in Indonesia were in possession of 118 former British lend-lease fighters and bombers.

These planes—54 B-25 Mitchells, 26 P-40 fighters and 38 P-51 Mustangs—were passed over to the Dutch Indies after the State Department had given permission.

Mr. Marshall stressed that the United States had not sent any "lethal weapons" to the Dutch after V-J Day, apart from fulfilling certain commitments and equipping a Netherlands marine regiment, which had been trained in the United States.

Several other items of American equipment were also left behind by the British in Java, and taken over by the Dutch.—Reuter.

SERIOUS STRIKE

Paris, July 23.

Two thousand persons were estimated to be in the spreading strike of farmworkers, threatening France's meagre wheat harvest.

The strike began in the Auneau region, Eure et Loire Department, where 300 people left their jobs seeking more pay.

The Agence France Presse said that three men were wounded when the strikers fired on them at one unspecified spot as they tried to pass through the picket lines. The Agency said the bulk of workers were not leaving their jobs.—United Press.

Rumanian Journalist Kidnapped

Vienna, July 23.

A Rumanian journalist, George Nenison, nephew of the late Nicolai Titulescu, famous Rumanian Foreign Minister, was reported here today to have been kidnapped by men described as foreign secret police agents in central Vienna yesterday morning.

Nenison was stated to have feared for some time that he would be kidnapped by Rumanian Government agents and had been trying to escape to France. A ban on all Austrians leaving the Soviet zone of Austria, without a special stamp on their documents, made this impossible.

Large numbers of Hungarians, Rumanians, Poles and Yugoslavs who have tried to cross the border without a permit are reported to have been arrested at the zonal frontier by Soviet troops and deported to their own countries. Some who have elected to remain in Vienna are said to have been kidnapped and taken back to their homelands.—Reuter.

New U.S. Minister

Washington, July 23.

President Truman today named Mr. Rudolf E. Schoenfeld as United States first postwar Minister to Rumania.

Mr. Schoenfeld during the war was First Secretary of American missions to various exiled governments in London. He has been in the United States foreign service since 1916. The United States warned Rumania that the appointment "does not imply that the United States Government condones the actions of the Rumanian Government in denying the Rumanian people fundamental freedoms."

Explaining Mr. Schoenfeld's appointment, the Secretary of State, Gen. George Marshall, said: "The appointment predates the intention of the United States to maintain its interest in the welfare of the Rumanian people, to keep itself informed of developments in Rumania, and to continue its effort on behalf of American interests there."—Reuter.

High Birth Rate

London, July 23.

The highest birth rate in England and Wales for any quarter ending March since 1920, and an excess of births over deaths by more than double the figure for the corresponding three months of last year, are recorded by the Registrar General in returns published tonight.

During the period, 241,421 births were registered, representing a birth rate of 22.8 for a thousand of the total population.

The "natural increase" of the population—the excess of births over deaths—in the quarter was 59,488 against a corresponding excess for the same quarter last year of 25,995.—Reuter.

Haifa Explosion

Jerusalem, July 23.

A loud explosion rocked Haifa at 8.30 tonight.

The explosion was believed to have been from a delayed action bomb in the area near the foot of Mount Carmel. Police reinforcements attempting to reach the scene found that the roads were mined.—United Press.

HONGKONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND

The subscription list is now open. Please send your contribution to

MESSRS. LOWE, BINGHAM & MATTHEWS,

Hon. Treasurers, Mercantile Bank Building
Cheques should be payable to "The Hong Kong War Memorial Fund" and should be crossed.

For the purpose of acknowledgment, all subscribers who have Chinese names are requested to give those names in Chinese characters as well as in English.

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A COLUMBIA PICTURE

COMING SOON TO THE



HONGKONG FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Hongkong Football Association will be held at the Gloucester Hotel, top floor, Victoria in the Colony of Hongkong, on Monday the 28th day of July, 1947 at 5.30 o'clock in the afternoon to receive and consider the Accounts and Balance Sheet and the Report of the Council and Auditors, and to elect Officers for 1947/48.

Dated this 18th day of July, 1947.

By Order of the Council,
H. DE SA,
Acting Hon. Secretary.

All Affiliated Clubs are entitled to send two representatives to the meeting.

CONSULADO GENERAL DE PANAMA

The Panamanian Minister to China, wishes that Panamanian nationals in this area contact him between 9.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 22nd and/or Friday the 25th instant at the Panamanian Consulate.

At the request of the Chilean Embassy, Chilean citizens will also be attended at the same hour and days.